

CLAIMS

**Amend the following claims:**

1. A method of adjusting a treatment machine in which a transporting chain for transporting objects to be treated is guided in loops through at least one treatment station in a machine housing and driven at least at two locations by drives which in a normal operation are synchronized and adjusted relative to one another so that the transporting chain in its guides is neither tightly pulled nor compressed, the method comprising the steps of:

- A. Selecting two drives which follow one another in a forward direction of the transporting chain;
- B. asynchronously driving the selected drives, so that a chain portion located therebetween is tightly pulled or compressed by producing a length difference, and measuring a parameter which is dependent from a drive moment of one or both selected drives;
- C. when the parameter reaches or exceeds a fixed value, operating the drives asynchronously for reducing the



previously produced length difference by a predetermined amount;

- D. subsequently maintaining the adjusted relative position of the both drives relative to one another, with [asynchronous] synchronous operation of the drives;
- E. using the preceding steps for further drives, until chain lengths in all chain portions to be adjusted are adjusted.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, and further comprising providing a parameter which is [independent] dependent from the drive moment, for each chain portion to be adjusted.

**Amended claim 1:**

1. A method of adjusting a treatment machine in which a transporting chain for transporting objects to be treated is guided in loops through at least one treatment station in a machine housing and driven at least at two locations by drives which in a normal operation are synchronized and adjusted relative to one another so that the transporting chain in its guides is neither tightly pulled nor compressed, the method comprising the steps of:

- B1  
encl 2/
- A. Selecting two drives which follow one another in a forward direction of the transporting chain;
  - B. asynchronously driving the selected drives, so that a chain portion located therebetween is tightly pulled or compressed by producing a length difference, and measuring a parameter which is dependent from a drive moment of one or both selected drives;
  - C. when the parameter reaches or exceeds a fixed value, operating the drives asynchronously for reducing the previously produced length difference by a predetermined amount;
  - D. subsequently maintaining the adjusted relative position of the both drives relative to one another, with synchronous operation of the drives;
  - E. using the preceding steps for further drives, until chain lengths in all chain portions to be adjusted are adjusted.

B2

3. A method as defined in claim 1, and further comprising providing a parameter which is dependent from the drive moment, for each chain portion to be adjusted.

Add the following claim:

Q 14. A method of adjusting a treatment machine in which a transporting chain for transporting objects to be treated is guided in loops <sup>vertical</sup> through at least one treatment station in a machine housing and driven at least at two locations by drives which in a normal operation are synchronized and adjusted relative to one another so that the transporting chain in its guides is neither tightly pulled nor compressed, the method comprising the steps of:

- B3
- A. Selecting more than two drives which follow one another in a forward direction of the transporting chain;
  - B. asynchronously driving the selected drives, so that a chain portion located therebetween is tightly pulled or compressed by producing a length difference, and measuring a parameter which is dependent from a drive moment of one or both selected drives;
  - C. when the parameter reaches or exceeds a fixed value, operating the drives asynchronously for reducing the previously produced length difference by a predetermined amount;

- B3  
and
- D. subsequently maintaining the adjusted relative position of the both drives relative to one another, with synchronous operation of the drives;
  - E. using the preceding steps for further drives, until chain lengths in all chain portions to be adjusted are adjusted.
-